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Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That

*A BILL for Appointing Commissioners for Taking, Stating, and Determining all the Claims and Demands of the Creditors of the Corporation of the Governor and Company of Undertakers for raising the Thames Water in York-Buildings, and of all Persons claiming any Share or Interest in the Stock or Fund of the said Corporation.*



Whereas great Disputes and many Law-Suits have arisen and are like to continue between the Corporation of the Governor and Company of Undertakers for raising the Thames Water in York-Buildings, and their Legal Creditors, and others :

And whereas it is just and reasonable, that the said Disputes should be settled with as little Expence, and in as short a Manner, as may be ; and that the State of the Affairs of the said Corporation, and the Demands of all Persons claiming any Share, Interest, Debts or Sums of Money into, out of, or from the same, may be ascertained, settled, adjusted and determined ;

Enacted by the said Majesty, that the Commissioners of the said Corporation, and the Creditors of the said Corporation, and the Persons claiming any Share, Interest, Debts or Sums of Money into, out of, or from the same, may be ascertained, settled, adjusted and determined ;



*May it therefore please Your most Excellent MAJESTY,*

**That it may be Enacted; And be it Enacted,** by the KING's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the Authority of the same, **That**

shall be, and are hereby constituted and appointed Commissioners for taking, stating, and ascertaining the Accounts, Claims and Demands of all Persons, who are any ways interested in the Fund or Stock of the said Corporation, or intitled to any Share or Shares thereof, or any ways interested, as Creditors, or otherwise, in any of the Estates or Effects of or belonging to the said Corporation; and that the said Commissioners, or any of them, shall have full Power and Authority to State and Ascertain the Accounts and to Hear and Determine the Claims and Demands of all and every such Person and Persons in a summary Way; and that such Authority and Power of the said Commissioners shall continue for the Space of **Months,** to be computed from

and no longer: And for the better effecting the Purposes of this Act, the said Commissioners are hereby authorized and required to provide, or cause to be provided, on, or before the

a Book or Books, and therein to Enter, or cause to be Entered, the respective Claims of all the Creditors of the said Corporation, and also the Claims of all the Proprietors of any Parts or Shares of and in the Stock or Fund of the said Corporation, and the Nature and Quality of the respective Debts and Interests by such





such Persons respectively claimed; and that from and after the said and until the End of the then next Session of Parliament, unless the Powers and Authorities, to the said Commissioners hereby granted and reserved, shall be sooner executed and compleated, Attendances shall be given daily, and every Day, or as often as shall be necessary, at such convenient Place or Places within the Cities of *London* or *Westminster*, or the Limits of the Bills of Mortality, as the said Commissioners, or any or more of them, shall respectively appoint for the Entering such respective Claims and Demands; and for that Purpose the said Commissioners are hereby further required, before the said

to appoint a proper Place, within the Cities of *London* and *Westminster*, or Limits of the Bills of Mortality, for transacting the Business and Affairs, which they are hereby respectively required and impowered to do, and a proper Officer, or Officers, not being a Proprietor of the Stock or Creditor of the said Corporation, or having been so on

to enter fairly and legibly, in Writing, in such Book or Books, to be provided for that Purpose, all such Claims and Demands, as shall be made and delivered into such Office or Offices by any such Creditors, Proprietors, or Persons interested, as aforesaid, or by any Person or Persons by them authorized, and the Sums of Money; Stock, Shares and Interests they respectively claim; and the said Creditors, Proprietors, and other Persons interested, as aforesaid, are hereby required, on or before

to deliver, or cause to be delivered, in Writing, fairly and legibly written, under the Hands of each such Creditor, Proprietor, or Person interested, as aforesaid, or other Person or Persons by him, her or them duly authorized, unto such Officer or Officers, at such Place so to be appointed, as aforesaid, for that Purpose, a just and true Account of his, her and their respective Claims and Demands upon the said Corporation, and shall deliver to, and leave with the said Officer or Officers, hereby impowered to receive the same, a true and exact Copy of such Security and Securities, which they have in their respective Custody or Power, by which they respectively claim; and every Person so claiming, as aforesaid, shall, in his, or her Claim, respectively set down and express the Name of the Person or Persons, from whom each such Claimant purchased or obtained any Stock, Share, Debt, Sum of Money, or other Interest so to be claimed,



claimed, and the true Price and Consideration (if any) paid and given for the same respectively, and when, to the best of his or her Knowledge, Remembrance or Belief, and shall also declare, in such his or her Claim, whether the Stock, Share, Debts, Sums of Money, or other Interests so claimed, be in his or her own Right, or in Trust for any other Person or Persons, and in that Case then to declare, in such his or her Claim, the Name or Names of the Person or Persons, from whom the same is in Trust.

And be it further Enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That all such Claims for Infants, shall or may be made by their Fathers or Guardians, or any other Person in their Behalf; and all such Claims for Females Covert, by their Husbands; and all such Claims for Madmen, Idiots, or Lunaticks, by such Person or Persons under whose Care or Custody they are, or shall be, at the Time of entering such Claims; and all Claims for Persons residing in Parts beyond the Seas, by their Factors or Agents in *Great Britain*; all which Claims shall be made and entered in such Manner, as directed by this Act.

And, for the more regular and effectual stating, adjusting, and determining such Accounts, Claims, and Demands, as aforesaid, and putting this Act in Execution, It is hereby further Enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That the Governor, Assistants, Accountants, Cashier, Secretary, Clerks, and all other Officers, Agents, and Servants of the said Corporation, by what Name or Names soever they, or any of them, are or may be called or distinguished, and all and every other Person or Persons whatsoever, whom the said Commissioners, or any or more of them, shall think fit, to examine, in order to the due Execution of the Powers granted by this Act, are hereby strictly enjoined and required to attend the said Commissioners, from time to time, at such Times and Places as the said Commissioners, by Summons under the Hands of or more of them, shall require, direct, or appoint, and to give such Information, upon Oath, if required by the said Commissioners, or any or more of them, or upon solemn Affirmation, if the Person giving such Information be a Quaker, touching the Claims, Demands, and Accounts, and such other Matters and Things, as they shall be examined about, and that shall be enquired of by the said Com-



Commissioners, or any or more of them, touching such Claims, as shall be so made, or concerning or relating to the Affairs of the said Corporation, or the Management thereof; and the said Commissioners, or any or more of them, are hereby authorized to sit, from time to time, in such Place within the Cities of *London* and *Westminster*, or the Limits of the Bills of Mortality, as they shall think fit, with or without Adjournment, and to send their Precept or Precepts for any Person or Persons whatsoever, and also for all Books, Papers, Writings, or Records, as they shall judge necessary for their Information, relating to the said Accounts, Claims, and Demands, and other Matters and Things in this Act mentioned and contained, and to administer an Oath or Oaths, or the solemn Affirmation to any Person or Persons being Quakers, for the better Discovery of the Truth of the Fact concerning which such Enquiry shall be made; and the said Commissioners, or any or more of them, are hereby authorized to employ such Clerks, Messengers, and other Officers, as they shall think meet; and also to administer to every Accountant, Clerk, Messenger, and Officer, by them to be employed, an Oath for the true and faithful Performance and Execution of the Trust in them severally reposed, without taking any thing for such their Service, other than such Salary and Reward, as the said Commissioners hereby constituted and appointed, or any or more of them, shall order, direct, or appoint in that Behalf.

And it is hereby further Enacted, that any of the said Commissioners hereby appointed before they enter upon the Execution of this Act, shall take an Oath, before

which of them is hereby authorized and required to administer unto them the said Commissioners, the Tenor whereof shall be as follows; that is to say,

*I A. B. do Swear, that I will, according to the best of my Skill and Knowledge, faithfully, impartially, and truly execute the Trusts, Powers, and Authorities, vested and reposed in me, in and by an Act of Parliament, intituled,*



And every other of the said Commissioners in this Act named, before he enter upon the Execution of the said Act, shall likewise take the same Oath, before the said Commissioners, who are hereby authorized to administer the same to them, after they shall themselves have taken the said Oath as aforesaid : And if any of the Commissioners shall presume to act in any of the Trusts intended to be to them committed by this Act, before he shall respectively have taken the Oaths by this Act appointed, and in Manner herein prescribed, he or they shall

And it is hereby further Enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Commissioners, or any or more of them, are hereby impowered and required, in a summary Way, to enquire and inform themselves, by and upon the Testimony of Witnesses upon Oath, or solemn Affirmation, as aforesaid, or the Examination upon Oath, or solemn Affirmation, of the Parties interested, or by the Inspection and Examination of Deeds, Writings, and Records, or otherwise, according to their Discretion, of all the Claims and Demands of the Creditors of the said Corporation, and of the Proprietors of any Parts or Shares of or in the Stock or Fund of the same, and what Person or Persons is or are the true and real Owners of the same, or in any wise interested therein ; and the said Commissioners, or any or more of them, shall settle, adjust, ascertain, and determine all and every such Claims, as shall be so made before them, in such Manner, as to the said Com-



Commissioners, or any or more of them, after due Consideration of the Matter of such respective Claims, and hearing what can be alledged to make out the same, shall seem just and reasonable; and every such Determination of the said respective Commissioners, or any or more of them, respectively shall be registred and entered at length, in a Book or Books to be respectively provided for that Purpose.

And be it Enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That all and every Person and Persons, who in any Examination directed to be taken by this Act, shall give false Evidence or Information upon Oath, or solemn Affirmation, as aforesaid, before the Commissioners hereby appointed, or any or more of them, being therefore convicted, shall be

And it is hereby further Enacted, That no Person or Persons whatsoever shall be deemed or taken to be a Creditor of or Proprietor in the said Corporation, for any greater Sum or Interest, than the Value of what shall be proved or appear to the Satisfaction of the said Commissioners, or any or more of them, to have been really and *bona fide* paid in Money, or otherwise, by the Person or Persons claiming the same, his or their Testator or Intestate, as the Consideration for the Purchase of the Debt or Sum of Money.

And whereas Differences and Disputes may arise touching the said Accounts, Claims, and Demands, and Interest, and concerning the ascertaining and determining the same by the said Commissioners; Be it therefore Enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That

for the time being, or any or more of them, sitting at the same Time and Place, and not otherwise, shall, and are hereby authorized, from time to time, to hear and determine all Differences, Disputes, or



or Controversies touching or concerning any Claims or Demands of the Creditors of the said Corporation, and the Property of and in Parts or Shares in the Stock or Fund of the same, which shall be claimed within the Time hereby limited for making such Claims and cannot be liquidated or adjusted between the said Commissioners and the respective Claimants within the Time herein before limited in that Behalf; and that the said

or any or more of them, from time to time, with or without Adjournment, summarily shall and may, upon the Testimony of Witnesses, upon Oath, or solemn Affirmation, as aforesaid, or Examination of Parties interested, or by all or any of the said Ways and Means, or otherwise, proceed to the Hearing and Determining of every or any such Differences or Disputes; and that the definitive Order of the said

or any or more of them, as aforesaid, therein, shall be final; from which there shall be no Appeal or Review; nor shall any Writ of Error or *Certiorari* lie for Removal or Reversal of the same; and also that the said

or any or more of them, upon a Complaint to be made by or for any such Claimant, Creditor, or Proprietor of the said Corporation, (so as such Complaint be made within Days after any Determination of the said Commissioners)

shall issue out Notes or Warrants under their Hands, or the Hands of any or more of them, thereby warning the

said Commissioners, or or any or more of them, to appear before them at any such Time and Place, as in such Note or Notes shall be specified, touching such Complaint; and upon Appearance of the Commissioner or Commissioners so summoned, or upon Default of Appearance, and Oath made of due Notice given or left at the publick Office, (which Oath the said or any or more of them, are hereby empowered to administer) the said

or any or more of them, may proceed to make such final and definitive Order, as aforesaid; and every such final and definitive Order shall conclude and bind all the Parties thereunto, notwithstanding any Coverture, Infancy, Non-sanity of Memory, Absence beyond Sea, or other Disabilities in any Person or Persons concerned therein.

**Provided also, and it is hereby Enacted,** That in case the said Corporation shall think themselves aggrieved by any Sentence or Determination of the said Commissioners hereby appointed, it shall and may be lawful for the said Corporation to  
appeal



appeal from such Sentence or Determination in such Manner and Form, as any of the Claimants, Creditors of the said Corporation, are hereby before enabled to do.

And be it further Enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Commissioners, or any or more of them, and the said or any or more of them, for the Matters, and according to their respective Powers relating to the said Claims, Accounts and Demands, shall be, and shall be taken to be, Courts of Record; and that the Judgments and Determinations, which shall be severally and respectively made therein by the Authority of this Act, shall be recorded in Parchment, to be provided and kept for that Purpose, and that every such Judgment and Determination

shall be signed by or more of the said Commissioners, or or more of the said which Book or Books of Record shall remain in some certain Place or Places to be appointed by the said Commissioners, or any or more of them, and the said or any

or more of them respectively, and be perpetual standing Records; and all Persons concerned or to be concerned, may repair to view the same, and thereout to take Copies of all such Judgments and Determinations, as shall relate to him, her, or them; and that none of the said

shall take any Fee or Reward whatsoever, directly or indirectly, for any thing to be done by them by Virtue or Colour of this Act, touching the said Claims, Accounts and Demands, or any of them.

And it is hereby further Enacted, That all Transfers, Sales and Assignments of any Debts or Sums of Money due from the said Corporation, or of any Parts or Shares of the Stock or Fund of the same, made after the

and before such Debts, Sums of Money, and Interest respectively shall be adjusted,



adjusted, settled, and ascertained, and determined, pursuant to the Directions of this Act, shall be deemed and adjudged to be, and are hereby declared to be, and also that all Actions, Suits and Process whatsoever, which have been commenced, and are now depending, or which shall be commenced, carried on, or prosecuted by any Person or Persons for the Recovery of any Debt, or Sum of Money, or other Demand, due, or pretended to be due from the said Corporation, or from any Person or Persons, who stand any way bound or engaged for the same for the said Corporation only, and all Proceedings, as well before as after Judgment, in any such Action or Suit, shall be stayed for the Space of                      to be computed from

**Provided always, and it is hereby further Enacted,** by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Corporation, or the Governor or Assistants thereof, shall not, during the Time of which Suits and Process are hereby stayed, alienate, convey away, charge or incumber any of their Estates, either in *England* or *Scotland*; and that all Alienations, Conveyances, Charges and Incumbrances to be made by them during the Time aforesaid, shall be

**and it is hereby further Enacted,** by the Authority aforesaid, That each and every of the Commissioners herein before-named for executing the Purposes of this Act, shall, for his Labour, Pains, and Service, when he hath put in Execution and compleated the several Trusts and Authorities hereby in him vested and reposed, have and receive to his own Use the Sum of                      which several Sums of                      and also all such further Sum or Sums of Money, for the Labour, Pains and Service of such inferior Officers, to be appointed, as aforesaid, and for incident Charges, as shall be adjudged reasonable and necessary by the said Commissioners, or any                      or more of them, and signed by a Warrant or Precept under their Hands and Seals, shall be issued and paid in the first Place out of the Money, Cash, or Effects of the said Corporation; and such Salary or Salaries respectively shall not be subject or liable to any Deduction for or in Respect of any Taxes assessed, or to be imposed by any present or subsequent Act of Parliament.



And it is hereby further Enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That all and every Share of Stock, Debt, or Interest, due or belonging to any Person or Persons from or in the said Corporation, or out of or from all or any of the Estate or Estates of the said Corporation, for which no Claim shall be delivered and entered, in Manner and within the Time limited by this Act, shall be, and is hereby declared to be

Provided always, That nothing in this Act contained shall be construed or extend to prejudice or defeat any Debt due to his Majesty or to the Publick from the said Corporation, on account of all or any of the forfeited Estates purchased by the said Corporation; but that the said Corporation, and their Estates and Effects, shall remain and continue subject and liable to be extended, seized, and sold for the Payment of such Debt, in the same Manner, as if this Act had never been made; any thing herein contained to the contrary notwithstanding.

And be it Enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Commissioners hereby appointed, shall, and they are hereby required to deliver into each House of Parliament, within a particular and distinct Account in Writing of the Effects of their Doings and Proceedings in the Execution of the Trust hereby reposed in them.

And be it Enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That this Act shall be deemed and taken to be a publick Act, of which all Judges and Justices are to take Notice; and if any Action shall be brought against any Person for what he shall do in pursuance of this Act, such Person shall and may plead the General Issue, and give this Act and the Special Matter in Evidence.



That all and every Sum of Money, or part thereof, which shall be paid by the said Corporation, for which no bill shall be delivered and entered, in London and within the time limited by this Act, shall be, and is hereby declared to be

applied to the use of the said Corporation, and shall be continued or extended to purchase or redeem any debt due to his Majesty or to the Publick from the said Corporation, or account of all or any of the said debts purchased by the said Corporation; but that the said Corporation, and their Estates and Effects, shall remain and continue liable to be extended, seized, and sold for the payment of such debt, in the same manner, as if this Act had never been made; any thing herein contained to the contrary notwithstanding.

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**A BILL for Appointing Commissioners for taking, Storing and Determining all the Claims and Demands of the Creditors of the Corporation of the Governor and Company of Undertakers for raising the Thames Water in York Buildings, and of all Persons claiming any Share or Interest in the Stock or Fund of the said Corporation.**